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## President Ben Shelly Honors the Graduating Classes of 2011 Across the Navajo Nation

**Window Rock, AZ**—President Ben Shelly announced today that he has issued a proclamation commending all Navajo Nation students for their academic achievements and ‘In Honor of the Graduating Class of 2011.’

“On behalf of the Navajo Nation, I commend all 2011 graduating students for their hard work and academic achievements,” said President Shelly. “Now I challenge you all to pursue a higher education so you may bring your knowledge home and become Navajo leaders of tomorrow. Congratulations from First Lady Martha Shelly and I.”

Andrew M. Tah, The Navajo Nation Superintendent of Schools added, “Congratulations graduates, it is with happiness and joy your family celebrates your success. Thank you to the parents, grandparents, teachers, administrators and school board members who have helped our children along the path to graduation. Education will provide every student with the opportunity to build his or her future. It is the hope and wishes of the Department of Diné Education that you will continue in higher education.”

Full text of the proclamation follows:

My grandchild, education is the ladder. Tell our people to take it.  
~ Chief Manuelito, Hastiin Ch’ilhaajinii,

**WHEREAS**, During this time of year our Navajo families and friends gather to honor the academic achievement of our students and share in the celebration of their graduation. Through this special time, the Navajo Nation recognizes their accomplishments and remembers our elders whose wisdom has strengthened our Nation today; and

**WHEREAS**, The new found knowledge of our graduates will reinforce our shared commitment for positive change and move our Nation forward; and

**WHEREAS,** It is our time and our responsibility to strengthen our sovereignty, uphold greater self-determination, and work toward individual independence as our Nation retakes its rightful place as a local, national and global leader; and

**WHEREAS,** Alongside our parents and grandparents, I encourage our students to seek every opportunity while preserving our sacred songs and ceremonies, learning our language and upholding our core values; and

**WHEREAS,** We gather together to honor our mentors and our educators, whose positive words have guided your journey to graduation. With your academic success, our people stand with you, as you return to our homeland to help build a more prosperous Nation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, BEN SHELLEY,** President of the Navajo Nation, do hereby recognize the dedication and hard work of all our graduates in this year of 2011.

ATTEST:

Witness my hand and the Great Seal of the Navajo Nation.

Ben Shelly  
President, The Navajo Nation

Signed at the Executive Office this 4<sup>th</sup> day of May 2011.

Andrew Tah, Superintendent of Schools  
Diné Education

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